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could.

a controller having inputs configured to receive the output signals from the first and second [first] sensors, the controller being configured to monitor the output signals, to provide an indication of changes in the position of the body relative to the support surface, and to provide an indication if the body exits the support surface.

Please add new claims ~~68-87~~ as follows:

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68. An apparatus for supporting a patient, the apparatus comprising:  
a frame,  
a mattress supported by the frame, and  
a patient position detection system including an alarm and at least one sensor configured to detect a position of the patient relative to the mattress, the patient position detection system having at least three modes of operation, a first mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient moves toward exiting the mattress by a first amount, a second mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient moves toward exiting the mattress by a second amount greater than the first amount, and a third mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient exits the mattress.

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69. The apparatus of claim ~~68~~<sup>48</sup>, wherein the patient position detection system includes at least one first sensor coupled to the frame, the at least one first sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in a weight applied to the mattress, at least one second sensor located adjacent the mattress, the at least one second sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in the position of the patient on the mattress, and a controller having inputs configured to receive the output signals from the first and second first sensors, the controller being configured to monitor the output signals, to provide an indication of changes in the position of the patient relative to the mattress, and to activate the alarm in the first, second and third modes of operation.

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70. The apparatus of claim ~~69~~<sup>49</sup>, wherein the at least one first sensor is a load cell and the at least one second sensor is one of a resistive pressure sensor, a capacitance sensor, and a piezoelectric sensor.

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71. The apparatus of claim ~~68~~<sup>48</sup>, further comprising a deck coupled to the frame, the mattress being located on the deck, the deck including a head deck section, a seat deck section, a thigh deck section, and a leg deck section, and wherein at least one head

sensor is coupled to the head deck section, at least one seat sensor is coupled to the seat deck section, and at least one thigh sensor is coupled to the thigh deck section.

<sup>52</sup><sub>72</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>48</sup><sub>68</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system includes controller coupled to the at least one sensor and first, second, and third mode indicator lights which correspond to the first, second, and third modes of operation of the patient position detection system, respectively, the controller being coupled to the first, second, and third mode indicator lights.

<sup>53</sup><sub>73</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>48</sup><sub>68</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system includes controller coupled to the at least one sensor and further comprising a control panel coupled to the controller to permit a caregiver to select between the first, second and third modes of operation.

<sup>54</sup><sub>74</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>53</sup><sub>73</sub>, wherein the control panel includes an actuator to permit the caregiver to adjust a volume of the alarm.

<sup>55</sup><sub>75</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>53</sup><sub>73</sub>, wherein the control panel includes a key button and a separate mode button, the controller permitting the caregiver to change the mode of operation by pressing the mode button only when the key button is also pressed.

<sup>56</sup><sub>76</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>53</sup><sub>73</sub>, wherein the control panel includes a key button and a separate a volume control button to permit the caregiver to adjust a volume of the alarm, the controller being configured to permit the caregiver to adjust the volume of the alarm using the volume control button only when the key button is also pressed.

<sup>57</sup><sub>77</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>48</sup><sub>68</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system is coupled to a communication port to provide a nurse call alarm to a remote location when the alarm is activated.

<sup>58</sup><sub>78</sub>. An apparatus for supporting a patient, the apparatus comprising:  
a frame,  
a mattress supported by the frame, and  
a patient position detection system including an alarm and at least one sensor configured to detect a position of the patient relative to the mattress, the patient position detection system having at least three modes of operation, a first mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient moves away from a central region of the mattress by a first amount, a second mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient moves away from the central region of the mattress by a second amount

greater than the first amount, and a third mode of operation resulting in the alarm being activated when the patient exits the mattress.

<sup>59</sup><sub>79</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>58</sup><sub>78</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system includes at least one first sensor coupled to the frame, the at least one first sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in a weight applied to the mattress, at least one second sensor located adjacent the mattress, the at least one second sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in the position of the patient on the mattress, and a controller having inputs configured to receive the output signals from the first and second first sensors, the controller being configured to monitor the output signals, to provide an indication of changes in the position of the patient relative to the mattress, and to activate the alarm in the first, second and third modes of operation.

<sup>60</sup><sub>80</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>59</sup><sub>79</sub>, wherein the at least one first sensor is a load cell and the at least one second sensor is one of a resistive pressure sensor, a capacitance sensor, and a piezoelectric sensor.

<sup>61</sup><sub>81</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>58</sup><sub>78</sub>, further comprising a deck coupled to the frame, the mattress being located on the deck, the deck including a head deck section, a seat deck section, a thigh deck section, and a leg deck section, and wherein at least one head sensor is coupled to the head deck section, at least one seat sensor is coupled to the seat deck section, and at least one thigh sensor is coupled to the thigh deck section.

<sup>62</sup><sub>82</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>58</sup><sub>78</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system includes controller coupled to the at least one sensor and first, second, and third mode indicator lights which correspond to the first, second, and third modes of operation of the patient position detection system, respectively, the controller being coupled to the first, second, and third mode indicator lights.

<sup>63</sup><sub>83</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>58</sup><sub>78</sub>, wherein the patient position detection system includes controller coupled to the at least one sensor and further comprising a control panel coupled to the controller to permit a caregiver to select between the first, second and third modes of operation.

<sup>64</sup><sub>84</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>63</sup><sub>83</sub>, wherein the control panel includes an actuator to permit the caregiver to adjust a volume of the alarm.

<sup>65</sup><sub>85</sub>. The apparatus of claim <sup>63</sup><sub>83</sub>, wherein the control panel includes a key button and a separate mode button, the controller permitting the caregiver to change the mode of operation by pressing the mode button only when the key button is also pressed.